

## **LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI JOINS FRIDAY FORUM MARKING 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAKE TAHOE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**SOUTH LAKE TAHOE** - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, whose efforts as U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior helped launch the 1997 Lake Tahoe Presidential Forum on preserving the health of the Tahoe Basin, joined a celebration Friday marking the 10th anniversary of that event. The forum resulted in the creation of the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) which has generated \$1.1 billion in investments to protect the Tahoe region. The 10th Anniversary Lake Tahoe Forum held on Friday was attended by former President Bill Clinton, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and others. The event signaled a renewal of the commitment made ten years ago to protect and preserve the Lake Tahoe Basin.

☐☐☐ \* **Lt. Governor's Biography - 10th Anniversary of the Lake Tahoe Presidential Forum (pdf)**

☐☐☐ \* **Address by Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi at the 10th Anniversary of the Lake Tahoe Summit**

**###**

"It is appropriate that just a month after the end of the Angora Fire, we look to expand our efforts to protect this jewel of nature and its residents," said Lt. Governor Garamendi. "As global warming takes its toll on the region's snowfall levels, the health of its forests, and the lake's clarity, we must redouble our efforts to ensure that Lake Tahoe remains a treasure for generations to come."

Earlier Friday Lt. Governor Garamendi was briefed by members of the recovery teams responsible for debris and tree removal, residential reconstruction, and environmental restoration efforts following the Angora Fire. He represented the region as a California legislator, authoring the Tahoe Regional Planning Act, the Tahoe Conservancy, and the Tahoe Bond Act, all of which have helped protect the area's natural beauty and resources.

The EIP is one of the nation's largest public-private collaborative restoration projects, leading to the acquisition of 3,064 acres of sensitive land; improvements of 13,000 acres of wildlife habitat;

treatment of 29,293 acres to achieve ecosystem restoration and/or forest fuel reduction goals; and more.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 17, 2007

Office: 916 / 445-8994